

September 18, 2001

**Workshop Notice**  
**Program to Foster the Elimination of the Digital Divide Rulemaking**

HB 2900 added a new section to the Public Utilities Act, Section 13-301.2, Program to Foster the Elimination of the Digital Divide. In summary, Section 13-301.2 requires the Illinois Commerce Commission to implement a rule requiring each telecommunications carrier to solicit, collect, and remit voluntary contributions to assist in the funding of the Program to Foster Elimination of the Digital Divide. Please see the back of this notice for the specific language in HB 2900 for Section 13-301.2.

A second workshop has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 2 at 1:30 p.m.** to discuss the revisions to the rule. Hopefully this will be the last workshop and a Staff can take an agreed upon rule to the Commission for the opening of a docket.

The workshop will be held at:

Illinois Commerce Commission  
527 East Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
Hearing Room C

For teleconference participants, the bridge number is:

Dial in number: 800-669-6831

Pass code: 7227248#

The Department of Commerce and Community Affairs presently has an RFP pending for its Digital Divide Fund, which can be reviewed at the following web address: [www.commerce.state.il.us/rfp.htm](http://www.commerce.state.il.us/rfp.htm).

If you have any questions about this workshop, please contact Cindy Jackson at (217) 782-7663 or [cjackson@icc.state.il.us](mailto:cjackson@icc.state.il.us)

*Cindy Jackson*  
Consumer Services Division

Section 13-301.2. Program to Foster Elimination of the Digital Divide. The Commission shall require by rule that each telecommunications carrier notify its customers that if the customer wishes to participate in the funding of the Program to Foster Elimination of the Digital Divide he or she may do so by electing to contribute, on a monthly basis, a fixed amount that will be included in the customer's monthly bill. The customer may cease contributing at any time upon providing notice to the telecommunications carrier. The notice shall state that any contribution made will not reduce the customer's bill for telecommunications services. Failure to remit the amount of increased payment will reduce the contribution accordingly. The Commission shall specify the monthly fixed amount or amounts that customers wishing to contribute to the funding of the Program to Foster Elimination of the Digital Divide may choose from in making their contributions. A telecommunications carrier shall remit the amounts contributed by its customers to the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs for deposit in the Digital Divide Elimination Fund at the intervals specified in the Commission rules.